

REMARKS

Applicants have cancelled claims 1 through 26 (which were the subject of prior, allowed, parent patent application, U.S. Patent Application No. 09/777,018). The present amendments more fully protect the invention, and in particular the newly added subject matter to this continuation-in-part application.

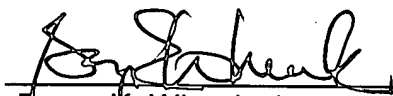
Applicant submits that the cancellation of the claims addresses the matters raised in the Office Action, and does not raise any new multiple invention issues since only one independent claim remains in the application.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the objection to the specification, in view of the amendments to the Title and to the Abstract. Applicant has amended the Title to correspond to the preamble of the independent claim, and has amended the Abstract, as requested by the Examiner.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (314) 726-7500.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 22 January 2004

By: 
Bryan K. Wheelock
Reg. No. 31,441

HARNES, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
7700 Bonhomme, Suite 400
(314) 726-7500